

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 17 – March 6, 2014

A reminder that there will be increased protests, attempts to disrupt traffic, protests near economic centers, suspicious packages planted, tire fires and additional clashes against police during the time period from February 11, 2014 to March 31, 2014 that may not occur in the restricted areas.

Tonight, March 6, 2014 through Sunday, March 9, 2014, a violent opposition group has called for protests on the Budaiya Highway corridor during all hours from the Burgerland Round-a-bout east towards al Noaim (Central Market). The areas of Jidhafs, Sanabis, and Daih will likely experience violent protests during this time period. Clashes with police forces are likely. Traffic congestion is likely in and around these areas. Avoid these areas (Yellow ovals).

Unknown actors have recently targeted Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). Recently, MOI disarmed an IED placed near an ATM during the late evening/early morning hours. Use caution when approaching ATMs, particularly at night and early morning, by scanning the area for items that are out of place or suspicious to the area in general.

In light of recent events, the Embassy recommends you increase your general situational awareness both at home and away from home. Certain violent, anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) groups, and pro-Government of Bahrain groups are calling for continued protests. The violent anti-GOB groups are calling for increased activities throughout the country. These acts will likely take place inside of the restricted areas, but they could spill over. Pro-Government groups will likely protest in areas outside of the restricted areas. Anticipate that the Budaiya Highway corridor will experience increased acts along its length through March 31st.

There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date. We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these acts the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only. The Embassy advises all Americans to avoid travel within red zones as a general rule whenever possible.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy is located at:

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RESTRICTED AREAS

BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

